



# Los Angeles County AUDIT COMMITTEE

## ORIGINAL

June 3, 2004

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

### **COMMISSION REVIEW PROCESS -- SUNSET REVIEW OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES (ALL DISTRICTS AFFECTED) (3VOTES)**

#### **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

Approve ordinance extending the sunset review date for the Los Angeles County Commission for Public Social Services (CPSS) to June 30, 2007.

#### **PURPOSE OF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

On December 1, 1994, the Audit Committee submitted its initial report in response to your Board's instruction to review the effectiveness of County commissions, committees and task forces defined under Chapters I and IV of the Los Angeles County Committee Book. Consistent with your Board's instructions, the Audit Committee is submitting the results of the following evaluation of the Los Angeles County Commission for Public Social Services performed by the Auditor-Controller, and recommendations from the Audit Committee for further action by your Board.

#### **JUSTIFICATION:**

Implementation of federal welfare reform has led to many changes in State and County public assistance policies and has brought considerable fiscal resources to the County for job development and training, child care, and transportation. CPSS provides a unique citizen's viewpoint to the Board and Director on the implications of these policies and the most beneficial use of the available resources at the local level.

During the evaluation period, CPSS reviewed and made recommendations on various welfare program reform issues. CPSS' achievements included the following:

- Co-sponsored legislative briefings with the County's Legislative Strategist on County welfare reform principles and provided testimony about the principles at the State Senate hearings.

Louisa Ollague, Chair  
1<sup>st</sup> District  
Brence Culp, Vice Chair  
3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Clinton Tatum  
2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Rick Velasquez  
4<sup>th</sup> District  
Angela Mazzie  
5<sup>th</sup> District

- As instructed by the Board, established the Committee on Review and Evaluation of CalWORKs (CORE). CORE members meet monthly to discuss various CalWORKs issues.
- Developed CORE's Evaluation Plan for the welfare to work program recommending improvements in the CalWORKs program. CORE's Evaluation Plan was adopted by the Board.
- Communicated with the State legislature and the Governor's office in support of AB231, the anti-hunger bill.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

As stipulated in Chapter 3.56.060 of the Los Angeles County Code, each member is entitled to receive \$25 a month if they attend at least one meeting that month. During 2002 and 2003, all CPSS members voluntarily waived their stipend.

**FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:**

The Los Angeles County Commission for Public Social Services was established and has been continued by Board Order pursuant to Chapter 3.56 of the Los Angeles County Code. The Board-approved sunset review date for the Commission was June 30, 1998.

The CPSS was established to consult with and advise the Board and the Director of the Department of Public and Social Services on all matters relating to the provision of public social services. CPSS's functions are as follows:

- Conduct studies on special projects and make recommendations to the Board and the Director on any and all aspects of the management and operation of the Department of Public Social Services in order to promote the efficient and cost effective delivery of departmental services.
- Conduct public hearings as necessary to determine the attitudes and needs of the public, both recipients and non-recipients, and cooperate with organizations and private citizens to improve public social services.
- Review proposed federal, State and local legislation and regulations for potential impact on the County and make recommendations to the Board and Director.
- Appoint staff personnel as authorized by the Board and direct staff activities in support of the Commission's objectives.

CPSS has fifteen members, consisting of three appointed by each Supervisor. CPSS members have experience in the management of large private businesses, civic affairs or public charities. One of three members nominated by each Supervisor shall be either a welfare recipient or a representative of a welfare rights organization.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS):**

CPSS' objectives for the next evaluation period are:



- Continue to monitor and evaluate DPSS' implementation of CalWORKs through CORE's work plan.
- Conduct a study on the impact of changes in the Food Stamp program and work with the local Grocers Association to identify potential providers for the Food Stamps program to ensure there is an adequate food supply to serve participants.
- Continue to review and make recommendations on proposed legislation at the County, State and federal level.
- Continue implementing its adopted work plan. The work plan strategies call for the commissioners to select individual welfare program specializations to increase organizational effectiveness. It also calls for the Commission to expand external networking, and survey and report stakeholders' opinions on welfare topics.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Louisa Ollague  
Chairperson

LO: ml: kw

Attachment

cc: Chief Administrative Officer  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Auditor-Controller  
Director, Public Social Services  
Executive Director, Commission for Public Social Services



J. TYLER McCaULEY  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2766  
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

March 30, 2004

TO: Audit Committee

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley  
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION  
FOR PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Audit Committee recommend to the Board of Supervisors (Board) that the Los Angeles County Commission for Public Social Services' sunset review date be extended to June 30, 2007.

**BACKGROUND**

The Commission for Public Social Services (CPSS or Commission) was established by the Board pursuant to Chapter 3.56 of the Los Angeles County Code. The most recent sunset renewal was approved by the Board at its August 25, 1998 meeting.

The CPSS was established to consult with and advise the Board and the Director of the Department of Public Social Services (Director) on all matters relating to the provision of public social services. CPSS' functions are as follows:

- Conduct studies on special projects and make recommendations to the Board and the Director on any and all aspects of the management and operation of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) in order to promote the efficient and cost effective delivery of departmental services.
- Conduct public hearings as necessary to determine the attitudes and needs of the public, both recipients and non-recipients, and cooperate with organizations and private citizens to improve public social services.
- Review proposed federal, State and local legislation and regulations for potential impact on the County and make recommendations to the Board and the Director.
- Appoint staff personnel as authorized by the Board and direct staff activities in support of the Commission's objectives.

CPSS has 15 members, consisting of three appointed by each Supervisor. Commission members have experience in the management of large private businesses, civic affairs, or public charities. One of the three members nominated by each Supervisor shall be either a welfare recipient or a representative of a welfare rights organization. As stipulated in Chapter 3.56.060 of the Los Angeles County Code, each member is entitled to receive \$25 a month if they attend at least one meeting that month. During 2002 and 2003, all Commission members voluntarily waived their stipend.

### JUSTIFICATION

Implementation of federal welfare reform has led to many changes in State and County public assistance policies and has brought considerable fiscal resources to the County for job development and training, child care, and transportation. CPSS provides a unique citizen's viewpoint to the Board and the Director on the implications of these policies and the most beneficial use of the available resources at the local level.

During this evaluation period, CPSS reviewed and made recommendations on various welfare program reform issues. CPSS' achievements included the following:

- Co-sponsored legislative briefings with the County's Legislative Strategist on County welfare reform principles and provided testimony about the principles at the State Senate hearings.
- As instructed by the Board, established the Committee on Review and Evaluation of CalWORKs (CORE). CORE members meet monthly to discuss various CalWORKs issues.
- Developed CORE's Evaluation Plan for the welfare to work program recommending improvements in the CalWORKs program. CORE's Evaluation Plan was adopted by the Board.
- Communicated with the State legislature and the Governor's office in support of AB 231, the anti-hunger bill.

CPSS' objectives for the next evaluation period are:

- Continue to monitor and evaluate DPSS' implementation of CalWORKs through CORE's work plan.
- Conduct a study on the impact of changes in the Food Stamps program and work with the local Grocers Association to identify potential providers for the Food Stamps program to ensure there is an adequate food supply to serve participants.
- Continue to review and make recommendations on proposed legislation at the County, State, and federal level.



- Continue implementing its adopted workplan. The workplan strategies call for the commissioners to select individual welfare program specializations to increase organizational effectiveness. It also calls for the Commission to expand external networking, and survey and report stakeholders' opinions on welfare topics.

Please call me if you have any questions.

JTM:DR:RD

Attachments

c: Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Office  
Robin A. Guerrero, Chief, Board Operations  
Jim Corbett, Manager, Commission Services  
Frank G. De Balogh, Chair, Commission for Public Social Services  
Lorenza C. Sanchez, Executive Director, Commission for Public Social Services

COMMISSION SUNSET REVIEW  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES  
REVIEW COMMENTS

**Mission.** (Does the mission statement agree with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

Stated mission is as set forth in the ordinance creating the Los Angeles County Commission for Public Social Services (CPSS). **CONCUR**

**Section 1. Relevancy.** (Is the mission still relevant and in agreement with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

CPSS consults with and advises the Board and the Director of Public Social Services on all matters relating to the provision of public social services.  
**RELEVANT**

**Section 2. Meetings and Attendance.** (Are required meetings held and is attendance satisfactory?)

CPSS meets monthly or as needed. For the period January 1, 2000, to December 31, 2003, CPSS held 45 meetings with an average attendance of seven members per meeting. **SATISFACTORY**

**Sections 3 and 4. Accomplishments and Results.** (Are listed accomplishments and results significant?)

During the evaluation period, CPSS' achievements included the following:

- Co-sponsored legislative briefings with the County's Legislative Strategist on County welfare reform principles and provided testimony about the principles at the State Senate hearings.
- Communicated support for Board positions on various welfare reform issues to the Governor, State legislature, President, and members of Congress.
- Participated in Countywide summits on welfare reform issues with city officials and business leaders.
- Conferred with researchers and experts on policy implications of various welfare programs.

- Communicated with the State legislature and the Governor's office in support of AB 231, the anti-hunger bill.
- As instructed by the Board, CPSS established the Committee on Review and Evaluation of CalWORKs (CORE). CORE members meet monthly to discuss various CalWORKs issues.
- Developed CORE's Evaluation Plan for the welfare to work program recommending improvements to the CalWORKs program. CORE's Evaluation Plan was adopted by the Board.
- Developed a more user friendly CPSS web page for the public to access Commission reports, minutes, and other information about meetings.

#### **SIGNIFICANT**

**Section 5. Objectives.** (Are the objectives compatible with the mission and goals and relevant within the current County environment?)

CPSS' objectives for the next evaluation period are:

- Continue implementing its adopted work plan. The work plan strategies call for the commissioners to select individual welfare program specializations to increase organizational effectiveness. It also calls for CPSS to expand external networking and survey and report stakeholders' opinions on welfare topics.
- Continue to monitor and evaluate DPSS' implementation of CalWORKs through CORE's work plan.
- Conduct a study on the impact of changes in the Food Stamps program and work with the local Grocers Association to identify potential providers for the Food Stamps program to ensure there is an adequate food supply to serve participants.
- Continue to review and make recommendations on proposed legislation at the County, State and federal level.
- Continue to participate on the Joint Dialogue Task Force. **RELEVANT**

**Section 6. Resources.** (Are the resources utilized by the entity in support of the entity's activities warranted in terms of the accomplishments and results?)

CPSS does not have a separate budget. Costs incurred are expended from DPSS' budget. DPSS estimates that it incurs \$140,000 in staffing costs (salaries and



employee benefits) per year and \$6,000 per year in services and supplies to support Commission activities. During 2002 and 2003 all Commission members voluntarily waived their \$25 per month stipend. WARRANTED.

**Section 7. Recommendation.**

**EXTEND THE SUNSET REVIEW DATE FOR THE COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES TO JUNE 30, 2007.**

LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES  
ATTENDANCE RECORD

Commissioner	Nominated By	3/31/00	6/30/00	9/30/00	12/31/00	3/31/01	6/30/01	9/30/01	12/31/01	3/31/02	6/30/02	9/30/02	12/31/02	3/31/03	6/30/03	9/30/03	12/31/03	Totals	% Attend
Number of Meetings per Quarter →	→	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	2	45	
Carol Ojeda-Kimbrough	1st District	1	2	2	1	3	2	3	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	29	64%
Vibiana Andrade, Esq.	1st District								2	2	2	0	0	2	2	3	0	13	52%
Richard P. Fajardo	1st District	2	2	2	3	0	0											9	53%
Gabriel Andrew Sandoval	1st District								2	2	2	1	2	3	2	2	0	16	64%
Ulis Williams	2nd District		1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	6	14%
Linda Louise Forster	2nd District	1	3	0	1	3	2	2	1	2	1	2	3	3	1	1	1	27	60%
Arnold Butler	2nd District	1	1	1	0	0												3	21%
Marcine B. Shaw	2nd District								1	2	1	1	2	0	2	2	1	15	54%
Corinne Sanchez, Esq.	3rd District					1	1	2	1	2	2	0	1	2	3	1	2	18	53%
James N. Adler	3rd District	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	3	2	40	89%
Leonard Schneiderman, Ph.D.	3rd District	3	2	1	2	2	1	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	38	84%
Charles M. House	4th District																	1	20%
Johnnie E. Morgan	4th District	0																0	0%
Peggy Haidl	4th District	2	2	2	2	1	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0			14	35%
Marina Sueiro	4th District		3	2	3	1	1	2	3	1	2	1						19	68%
Jerre Davenport	4th District		0	0	3	2	2	2	2	0								11	48%
Jennifer Arballo	4th District																	3	27%
Helen C. Najjar	4th District																1	1	50%
Jack Tzu-Chieh Woo	5th District	1	0	0	0													1	9%
Joe Brown, Ph.D.	5th District																	3	60%
Paul Zee, Ph.D.	5th District						1	1	1	1	1							5	33%
Alfred J. Freitag, Ph.D.	5th District	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	12	27%
Frank Gabriel De Balogh, Ph.D.	5th District	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	2	41	91%
<b>Totals</b>		20	21	15	20	19	17	24	28	22	23	13	20	22	21	23	17	325	7.2

Average Attendance per Meeting →

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

An ordinance amending Title 3 - Advisory Commissions and Committees of the Los Angeles County Code relating to the Commission on Public Social Services.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles ordains as follows:

**SECTION 1.** Section 3.56.120 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**3.56.120 ~~Expiration~~Sunset Review Date.** The sunset review date for the Commission on Public Social Services shall be June 30, 2007. ~~This chapter shall expire on June 30, 2003, unless earlier extended by action of the board of supervisors.~~

[356120BGCOC]



## ANALYSIS

This ordinance amends Title 3 - Advisory Commissions and Committees of the Los Angeles County Code relating to the Commission on Public Social Services to establish a sunset review date of June 30, 2007.

## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

By   
BARBARA Y. GOUL  
Principal Deputy County Counsel  
Public Services Division

BYG:ec

06/03/04 (Requested)

06/07/04 (Revised)